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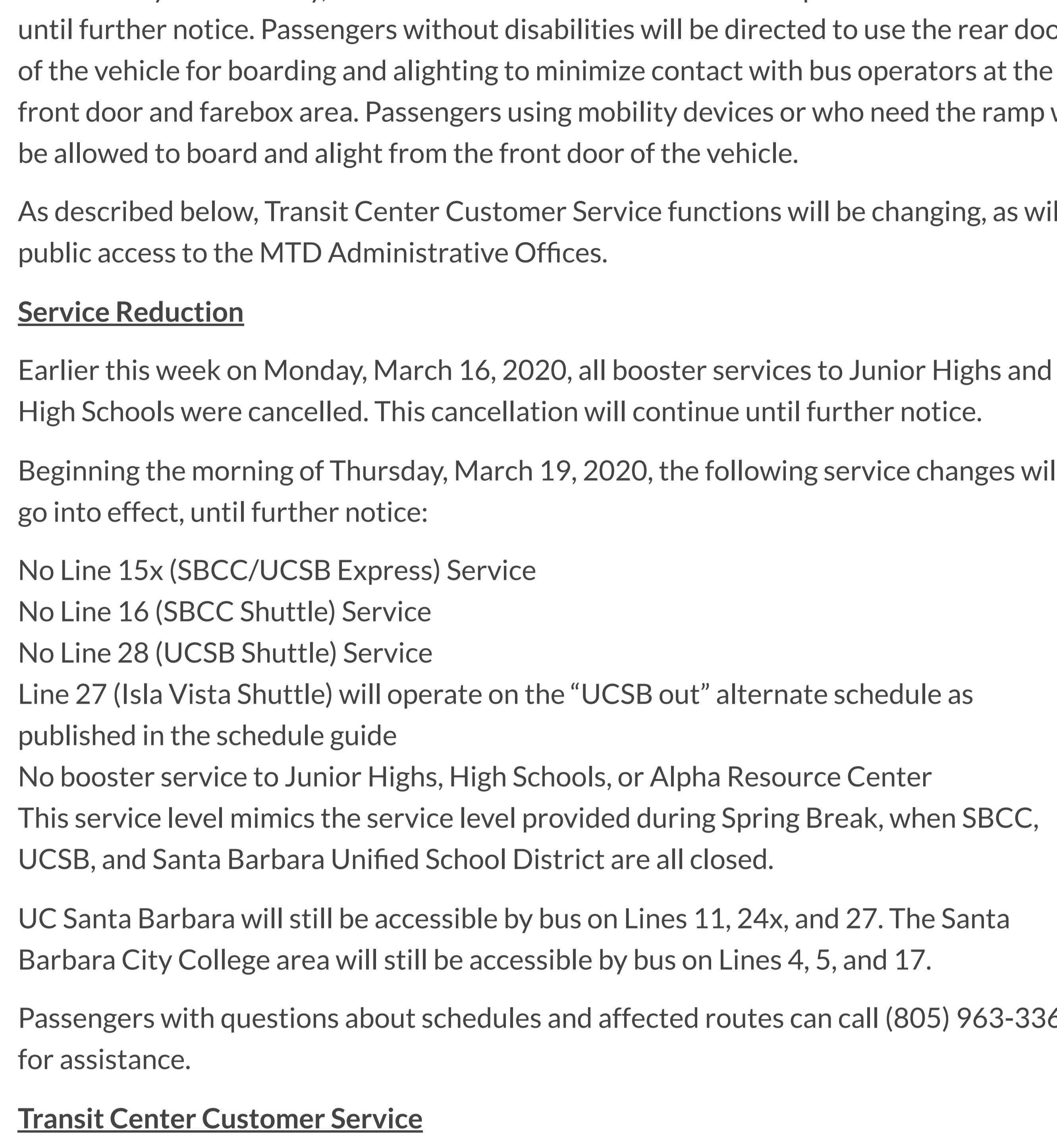
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## MTD BUS OFFERS FREE RIDES AND REDUCED SERVICE



COVID-19 / MAR 18 2020 12:15 PM / BY / 10 COMMENTS / READS 3408

Update by MTD Santa Barbara  
March 18, 2020

Effective Thursday, March 19, 2020, Santa Barbara MTD will be lowering service levels on several lines associated with area educational institutions, in light of these schools ceasing campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally on Thursday, all MTD fixed-route bus service will be provided free of charge until further notice. Passengers without disabilities will be directed to use the rear door of the vehicle for boarding and alighting to minimize contact with bus operators at the front door and farebox area. Passengers using mobility devices or who need the ramp will be allowed to board and alight from the front door of the vehicle.

As described below, Transit Center Customer Service functions will be changing, as will public access to the MTD Administrative Offices.

### Service Reduction

Earlier this week on Monday, March 16, 2020, all booster services to Junior Highs and High Schools were cancelled. This cancellation will continue until further notice.

Beginning the morning of Thursday, March 19, 2020, the following service changes will go into effect, until further notice:

No Line 15x (SBCC/UCSB Express) Service

No Line 16 (SBCC Shuttle) Service

No Line 28 (UCSB Shuttle) Service

Line 27 (Isla Vista Shuttle) will operate on the "UCSB out" alternate schedule as published in the schedule guide

No booster service to Junior Highs, High Schools, or Alpha Resource Center

This service level mimics the service level provided during Spring Break, when SBCC, UCSB, and Santa Barbara Unified School District are all closed.

UC Santa Barbara will still be accessible by bus on Lines 11, 24x, and 27. The Santa Barbara City College area will still be accessible by bus on Lines 4, 5, and 17.

Passengers with questions about schedules and affected routes can call (805) 963-3366 for assistance.

### Transit Center Customer Service

Transit Center facilities will still be operating on normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 6am to 7pm, and weekends, 9am to 5pm), but no walk-up sales or person-to-person transactions of any kind will be available; however, the two Ticket Vending Machines at the Transit Center will still be operational and accept cash, debit and credit cards. The public may still ask questions through the window or call (805) 963-3366.

In addition to help over the phone, the public is encouraged to contact MTD with any questions or concerns via the [sbmtd.gov](http://sbmtd.gov) website, by emailing [info@sbmtd.gov](mailto:info@sbmtd.gov), or through the agency's Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter accounts, all @santabarbaramtd.

### MTD Administrative Offices

Additionally, effective March 19, 2020, MTD's administrative office reception area at 550 Olive Street will be closed to visitors. Customers needing to make bulk pass purchases may do so upon appointment only. To arrange for a pass purchase during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm), please call (805) 963-3364.

The public is reminded to stay home if they are sick, follow proper health hygiene practices, and maintain appropriate social distance on buses, at the Transit Center, and at bus stops.

### MTD TAKING ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS DUE TO COVID-19 SITUATION

Source: MTD Santa Barbara

March 12, 2020

Santa Barbara MTD is actively responding to the possibility of the spread of COVID-19 virus by taking additional precautions to protect bus riders and the MTD workforce. Along with the rest of the transit industry, MTD leaders are closely following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD).

Additional disinfecting of the bus fleet is taking place nightly, using hospital grade disinfectant on all high-touch surfaces such as door handles, stanchions, seat back handles, grab bars, fareboxes, and driver areas. Portable toilets at the temporary Transit Center are outfitted with hand sanitizer dispensers.

All bus services are currently running on a normal schedule.

While there are currently no identified cases of the COVID-19 virus in Santa Barbara County, MTD encourages community members to follow smart health practices by doing the following, as recommended by the CDC and the PHD:

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

- Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Stay away from work, school, transit, and other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough.

Please [Login](#) or [Register](#) to comment on this.

### 10 COMMENTS

▼ Toggle Comments (Show)

LUVADUCK ▲ ▼ □

MAR 19, 2020 08:40 AM

I'm glad I don't rely on public transportation and sympathize with those who do for good cause. Those who have other options or are taking frivolous rides should quit. No idea how to discern which is which.

AHCHOOCO ▲ ▼ □

MAR 18, 2020 03:52 PM

It would be good if the drivers could wear N-95 masks.

ROGER ▲ ▼ □

MAR 18, 2020 03:41 PM

Some people with the means do not care about others who have none...

HZ ▲ ▼ □

MAR 18, 2020 02:32 PM

thank you MTD for free bus rides...some of us will eally appreciate that. I can walk to the grocery store, and often do..but I so appreciate being able to ride close to home when I have heavy bags. THANK YOU...

LUVADUCK ▲ ▼ □

MAR 19, 2020 08:43 AM

For your own sake, you would do well to look around for another option (if one exists!) for bringing home your groceries. The homeless population uses carts, baby carriages and children's wagons. Maybe you have access to something of that sort and don't realize it?

HZ ▲ ▼ □

MAR 18, 2020 02:31 PM

shut down all bus lines! Easy for you who have cars to say this... those of us without cars rely on public transport.

CADILLACKID ▲ ▼ □

MAR 18, 2020 02:16 PM

So is people's health and life! Half the bus drivers are 60+ and they have family to go home to, my down voters, would you put yourself in the post the bus drivers are? SERIOUSLY think about that before you contest my comments. This is a joke

Z ▲ ▼ □

MAR 18, 2020 01:43 PM

Need a ride? Call the CADILLACKID, he (she) thinks bus service isn't essential, it is.

JEMILA ▲ ▼ □

MAR 18, 2020 12:53 PM

Are they stranding the Alpha Resource people, how will they get anywhere?

CADILLACKID ▲ ▼ □

MAR 18, 2020 12:43 PM

This is ridiculous on all levels, MTD literally not looking out for their employees, does anyone have the slightest clue how uneducated a lot of people are when it comes to being safe within situations like this, you think this is going to stop infected people from riding the bus? This is exactly how this virus is spreading, bus lines need to be shut down! No common sense being used here, poor bus drivers

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